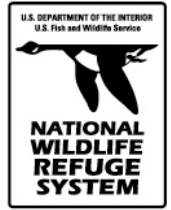


# News Release

## *National Wildlife Refuge System*



### Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

Savanna District  
7071 Riverview Road  
Thomson, IL 61285

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 18, 2006**

**Contact: Pam Steinhaus (815) 273-2732**  
**Refuge Ranger**

### Upper Mississippi River Refuge Closed Area Regulations

District Manager Ed Britton would like to remind everyone about Closed Area regulations. The Savanna District maintains eight closed areas on the Mississippi River in Pool 13. By designating these areas as closed, they are subject to special regulations different from the remaining portions of the Refuge. The nine Closed Areas are located as follows: In Iowa, the Elk River and Pleasant Creek Closed areas; In Illinois, Spring Lake, Frog Pond, Potters Marsh Buffer Zone, Potters Marsh Containment Cell, Lost Mound Unit and two sections of the Great River Trail.

In Iowa, the Elk River Closed Area south of Sabula, IA, starting at River Mile (RM) 532.5 downstream to the confluence of the Elk River, at RM 528.2 and Pleasant Creek Closed Area south of Bellevue, IA at RM 552.6 downstream to the confluence of the Maquoketa River at RM 548.6, are closed to all waterfowl hunting, deer and small game hunting, and trapping from March 15 until December 7, 2006. Deer and small game hunting and trapping are permitted the day following the close of the Iowa duck season, provided there is a season open for these species. Fishing is permitted year round.

In Illinois, the Spring Lake Closed Area, from the Plum River south of Savanna, IL at RM 536.1 to Fin and Feather Resort at RM 531.5, is closed to **all** entry including hunting, trapping, fishing, boating, from October 1, 2006 until the end of the Illinois duck season, December 19, 2006. The public is allowed to walk to the observation deck during this time. In addition, the Refuge would like to emphasize that no migratory bird hunting is allowed in the Spring Lake Closed Area at any time of the year. The Ingersoll Wetlands Learning Center area lies within the Spring Lake Closed Area and is closed to all hunting year round.

Frog Pond, Savanna, IL west of Hwy 84 and south of the Plum River: Closed to all hunting year round.

The Potters Marsh Buffer Zone, Thomson IL, extends 400 yards to the west of the Potters Marsh Blind Management Zone at river miles 522.5 - 525.0 and is closed to all waterfowl hunting during the regular waterfowl hunting season.

The containment cell, identified as Duck Foot Marsh, within the Potters Marsh Management Unit, located in Illinois waters at RM 525.2 is off-limits to hunting and fishing.

Lost Mound Unit (formerly Savanna Army Depot) beginning at RM 556.3 and extends south to RM550.2. The main channel of Crooked Slough is closed to all hunting. All land and water east of Crooked Slough is closed to all public access. Contact 273-3184 for more information.

The Great River Bike Trail, adjacent to the Thomson Causeway is a 1.5+ mile trail which extends through the 355 acre grassland area. This area is used for many activities such as hunting, biking and hiking. Due to safety concerns, there has been a **50 yard no hunting safety zone** established along the bike trail to provide a safe passage for walkers and cyclist. Hunters and cyclists/walkers are encouraged to use caution and be considerate of each other during the fall months.

The Great River Bike Trail, adjacent to Mesquaki Lake - No Hunting Zone extends 150 yards paralleling the bike trail from the Plum River south to Frog Pond.

The Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge is the most visited refuge in the United States. The refuge extends 261 miles along the Upper Mississippi River from Wabasha, Minn. to Rock Island, Ill., protecting and preserving habitat for migratory birds, fish, and a variety of other wildlife. This 240,000 acre refuge was established in 1924.